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Agenda item 133

Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the reports of the Secretary-General containing the financial performance report of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) for the period from 13 January to 30 June 1996 (A/51/793/Add.1) and the cost estimates for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998 (A/51/793). During its consideration of the two reports, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information.

2. UNOMIG was established by the Security Council in its resolution 858 (1993) of 24 August 1993 for an initial period of six months. Its mandate has been extended by the Council in subsequent resolutions, the latest of which, resolution 1096 (1997) of 30 January 1997, extended the mandate until 31 July 1997.

3. As indicated in paragraph 29 and annex VI to the report of the Secretary-General of 4 February 1997 (A/51/793), the total resources made available to the Mission for the period from 7 August 1993 to 30 June 1997 amount to $59,392,304 gross ($56,205,104 net). Estimated expenditures total $50,086,564 gross ($47,533,992 net) and credits returned to Member States amount to $7,335,022 gross ($6,952,944 net).

4. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 30 of the report that as at 31 December 1996 a total of $41,199,062 had been assessed on Member States in respect of UNOMIG for the period from 7 August 1993 to 31 January 1997 and contributions received for the same period amounted to $34,466,388, leaving outstanding assessments of $6,732,674.

5. Voluntary contributions are discussed in paragraphs 31 and 32 of the report. With regard to the estimated value of contributions by the Government of Georgia under the status-of-mission agreement amounting to $132,000 (para. 36), the Advisory Committee was informed that they were not treated as a voluntary contribution in kind in the cost estimates, but were categorized as "counterpart contributions", which are costs of facilities that Member States in whose countries United Nations peacekeeping operations are located have agreed to provide.

6. The Advisory Committee notes with satisfaction that all its recommendations have been implemented.

Financial performance report for the period from 13 January to 30 June 1996

7. As indicated in paragraph 4 and annex I to the second report of the Secretary-General (A/51/793/Add.1), total

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expenditure for the period from 13 January to 30 June 1996 amounted to $6,549,700 gross ($6,270,300 net), compared with an appropriation of $7,606,650 gross ($7,102,200 net). The resulting unencumbered balance for the period thus amounts to $1,056,950 gross ($831,900 net).

8. The unencumbered balance of $1,056,950 gross ($831,900 net) resulted primarily from savings under air operations ($565,100), military personnel costs ($162,000), civilian personnel costs ($176,100) and staff assessment ($225,000).

9. The Advisory Committee notes from annex I to the report that total unliquidated obligations for the period from 13 January to 30 June 1996 amount to $741,100.

10. In paragraph 7 of the report it is indicated that the action to be taken by the General Assembly at its resumed fifty-first session in connection with the financing of UNOMIG is a decision on the treatment of the unencumbered balance of $1,056,950 gross ($831,900 net) for the period from 13 January to 30 June 1996. The Advisory Committee recommends that the unencumbered balance be credited to Member States.

Cost estimates for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998

11. As indicated in paragraph 38 and annex I to the report of the Secretary-General of 4 February 1997 (A/51/793), the cost estimates for maintaining UNOMIG for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998 amount to $19,872,800 gross, including budgeted voluntary contributions in kind totalling $2,057,600.

12. The cost estimates for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998 provide for a total of 65 international staff (18 Professional staff, 22 Field Service staff, 16 General Service and 9 Security Service) and 75 local staff (ibid., para. 41 and annex IV). The Advisory Committee notes that the changes in the staffing table include the upgrading of the post of the Deputy Special Envoy for Georgia/Head of Mission from D-2 to the Assistant Secretary-General level and the addition of one Senior Political Adviser post at the P-5 level.

13. With regard to the post of Deputy Special Envoy for Georgia/Head of Mission, the Advisory Committee, by its letter of 19 December 1996 (see annex), concurred with the Secretary-General's request to reclassify the post from the level of D-2 to that of Assistant Secretary-General.

14. In connection with the addition of one Senior Political Adviser post at the P-5 level, the Advisory Committee notes from annex V, paragraph 3, to the report that there was a need for an additional P-5 post of Senior Political Adviser, who would be based in Tbilisi because the Mission had one Senior Political Adviser at the P-5 level based in Sukhumi. The responsibilities of the incumbent of the additional P-5 post would include advising the Head of Mission on all political aspects of developments in Tbilisi and accompanying the Head of Mission to meetings with Georgian and Abkhaz representatives, the Commander of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and members of the diplomatic community. The Advisory Committee has no objection to the additional P-5 post.

15. A correction was made to paragraph 3 of annex V to the report: the Advisory Committee was informed that the words "staff in the Professional category and above" should replace "international civilian staff".

16. Provision is made for three local consultants (annex II.C, para. 5). Upon inquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the three local consultants had been requested in view of the urgent need to gather information on the views of the people of the mission area.

17. The Advisory Committee notes from annex II.C, paragraph 18, that vehicle insurance for contingent-owned vehicles has increased from $250 to $286 per vehicle per annum. Upon inquiry, the Committee was informed that the increases were made by the insurance carrier as part of the worldwide insurance contract.

18. In paragraph 47 of the report it is indicated that the actions to be taken by the General Assembly at its resumed fifty-first session in connection with the financing of the Mission are the appropriation of the amount of $17,815,200 gross ($16,816,800 net) for the maintenance of the Mission for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998 and assessment at a monthly rate of $1,484,600 gross ($1,401,400 net), subject to the extension of the mandate of the Mission by the Security Council beyond 31 July 1997. The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the Secretary-General's requests.

Annex

Letter dated 19 December 1996 from the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions addressed to the Secretary-General

The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the Controller's letter dated 11 December 1996 seeking the Advisory Committee's concurrence to reclassify the post of Deputy Special Envoy for Georgia and Head of Mission of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) to the Assistant Secretary-General level, effective 1 January 1997.

The Advisory Committee notes from the Controller's letter that you had appointed a Deputy to the Special Envoy for Georgia effective 1 October 1995 following the Committee's concurrence with the establishment of the post. You are now recommending that the post be reclassified to the level of Assistant Secretary-General, effective 1 January 1997. The reasons mentioned in the Controller's letter include an increasingly complex set of political circumstances in the region and the expansion of the incumbent's responsibilities pursuant to Security Council resolution 1077 (1996) of 22 October 1996, in which the Council decided that the Office of Human Rights should form part of UNOMIG under the Head of Mission.

The costs associated with this change are estimated at $41,000 gross ($36,700 net) for a six-month period and can be met from existing resources. In this connection, the Advisory Committee recalls that by its resolution 49/233 A of 23 December 1994, the General Assembly decided that the financial period for peacekeeping operation should be from 1 July to 30 June and that by its resolution 1065 (1996) of 12 July 1996, the Security Council had extended the mandate of the Mission until 31 January 1997.

Under the circumstances and subject to the extension by the Security Council of the mandate of UNOMIG beyond 31 January 1997, the Advisory Committee concurs in your request.

(Signed) C. S. M. MSELLE

Chairman